GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4729
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2009
RURAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Dashmunsi Deepa

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rural health care system in the hilly areas of the country is very poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there are no specialist doctors in the health care centres in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) the present status of rural health care in Uttarakhand; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the health care system in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (f): No.It is true that the difficult terrain and more complex logistics issues in hilly states do pose unique problems for the health system. However, since the launch of National Rural Health Mission(NRHM), the rural health care system in hilly areas in the country has improved.The progress of NRHM on key parameters is enclosed as Annexure-A.The chart includes the progress in the hilly states in the country.

There are 4279 specialists positioned against regular posts at Community Health Centre level in the country (Rural Health Statistics Bulletin 2008).Under NRHM, 2426 more specialists have been positioned on contract at various levels.

The state of Uttarakhand has implemented the NRHM and several innovations have been introduced to improve the delivery of health services in the difficult areas in the state. The state has undertaken comprehensive upgradation of the health facilities in remote rural areas and linked them through referral transport arrangement, improved telecommunication link and better management support personnel.

Under NRHM the state has also positioned 9873.Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA),operationalised local health action through joint accounts at 2539 subcentres & VHSC.Made 196 facilities at subdistrict level functional on 24x7 basis and taken up 36 CHCs for upgradation.

The Government has operationalised National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to provide equitable medical care to all citizens in the country.Comprehensive rejuvenation of the public health delivery system has been undertaken in partnership with states under the NRHM.The NRHM envisages a fully functional, community owned, decentralized health delivery system to provide preventive, promotive and curative services to the community. The NRHM was launched on 12th April 2005, to provide accessible, affordable and accountable quality health services to the poorest households in the remotest rural regions. Under NRHM, the difficult areas with unsatisfactory health indicators were classified as special focus States to ensure greatest attention where needed. The thrust of the Mission was on establishing a fully functional, community owned, decentralized health delivery system with inter sectoral convergence at all levels, to ensure simultaneous action on a wide range of determinants of health like water, sanitation, education, nutrition, social and gender equality.